

From: Darin Hawley
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I've been a software developer for only five years now, but in that time I have developed a great appreciation for the freedom afforded by standards and interoperability. I have come to believe that above all else, data should be free from all encumbrances. Standard file formats ensure that I will always have the ability to access and/or share the data I have created no matter what the circumstances.

The proposed final judgement has absolutely nothing to say in this matter, even though it was explicitly identified as a barrier to entry. I believe that the proposal falls far short of providing a level playing field in the industry, not to mention exacting no real damages from a corporation who has systematically abused the industry for years.

In frustration, I often vow to renounce the use of Microsoft software. But how can I do so when they hold my own personal documents hostage?